Title : Need to take up the Subarnarekha Barrage Project of West Bengal under the Centrally-sponsored Scheme for its early completion.

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SHRI PRABODH PANDA (MIDNAPORE): West Bengal, Orissa, and Bihar (presently Jharkhand) came to an agreement for a comprehensive plan of development in order to utilize the water resources of Subarnarekha river in 1978. The West Bengal components comprise the Subarnarekha Barrage Project and system of canals to utilise the share of water for the purpose to irrigate an area of 99,248 hectares in Kharif season and 30,766 hectares in Rabi season in the District of Paschim Midnapore and Purba Midnapore.

The project originally estimated to cost Rs. 226.80 crore had been techno-economically cleared by the Central Water Commission, Government of India. The Technical Advisory Committee of the Planning Commission also approved the project. Environmental clearance was received. The estimated cost was revised to Rs. 595.30 crore as per 1995-96 price level. The present cost is assessed to be about Rs. 1,200.00 crore.

The project was included in the AIBP in 2001-02, and from 2004-05, that has been taken out of the AIBP. Presently the State Government is finding it extremely difficult to fund this project and requires alternate source of funding for the execution of the project. I urge upon the Union Government to take up the project under the Central National Sponsored Scheme and help the State Government to complete it within the stipulated time.